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Larry G. Brown  
Motorola, Inc.  
Law Department - MD 1610  
8000 W. Sunrise Blvd.  
Plantation, FL 33322

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**AUG 25 2008**

In re Application of :  
Levy, et al. :  
Application No. 10/733,616 : DECISION ON PETITION  
Filed: No. December 11, 2003 :  
Attorney Docket No. CE11336JI212 :  
For: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR  
PROVIDING INFORMATION ABOUT A  
COMMUNICATIONS DEVICE

This is a decision on the petition under the unavoidable standard of 37 CFR 1.137(a), filed June 3, 2008, to revive the above-identified application.

The petition is **DISMISSED**.

Any further petition to revive must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are permitted. The reconsideration request should include a cover letter entitled "Renewed Petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a)." This is **not** a final agency action within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. § 704.

This application became abandoned for failure to timely submit the issue fee and the publication fee in response to the Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due, mailed August 24, 2007, which set a non-extendable three month period for reply. The application became abandoned on November 25, 2007. A Notice of Abandonment was mailed on December 19, 2007.

A grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) must be accompanied by: (1) the required reply, unless previously filed; (2) the petition fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(l); (3) a showing to the satisfaction of the Director that the entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(a) was unavoidable; and (4) any terminal disclaimer (and fee as set forth in 37 CFR 1.20(d)) required pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(d).

The instant petition lacks item (3).

Decisions on reviving abandoned applications on the basis of “unavoidable” delay have adopted the reasonably prudent person standard in determining if the delay was unavoidable:

The word ‘unavoidable’ . . . is applicable to ordinary human affairs, and requires no more or greater care or diligence than is generally used and observed by prudent and careful men in relation to their most important business. It permits them in the exercise of this care to rely upon the ordinary and trustworthy agencies of mail and telegraph, worthy and reliable employees, and such other means and instrumentalities as are usually employed in such important business. If unexpectedly, or through the unforeseen fault or imperfection of these agencies and instrumentalities, there occurs a failure, it may properly be said to be unavoidable, all other conditions of promptness in its rectification being present.

In re Mattullath, 38 App. D.C. 497, 514-15 (1912)(quoting Ex parte Pratt, 1887 Dec. Comm’r Pat. 31, 32-33 (1887)); see also Winkler v. Ladd, 221 F. Supp. 550, 552, 138 USPQ 666, 167-68 (D.D.C. 1963), aff’d, 143 USPQ 172 (D.C. Cir. 1963); Ex parte Henrich, 1913 Dec. Comm’r Pat. 139, 141 (1913). In addition, decisions on revival are made on a “case-by-case basis, taking all the facts and circumstances into account.” Smith v. Mossinghoff, 671 F.2d 533, 538, 213 USPQ 977, 982 (D.C. Cir. 1982). Finally, a petition cannot be granted where a petitioner has failed to meet his or her burden of establishing that the delay was “unavoidable.” Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 316-17, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1131-32 (N.D. Ind. 1987).

The showing of record is inadequate to establish unavoidable delay within the meaning of 37 CFR 1.137(a).

A Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due and a Notice of Allowability were mailed on August 24, 2007. A Supplemental Notice of Allowability was mailed on November 14, 2007. Petitioners argue that the abandonment was unavoidable because applicants were under the impression that the issue fee was due three months from the mailing of the Supplemental Notice of Allowability, mailed November 14, 2007.

Petitioners are informed that the November 14, 2007 Supplemental Notice of Allowability did not re-set the period for submission of the issue fee and publication fee. As stated in the November 14, 2007 Supplemental Notice of Allowability, “... If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.” The Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due was mailed previously on August 24, 2007. The requirements set in August 24, 2007 Notice of Allowance and Fee(s) Due were never withdrawn. The application did become abandoned three months after August 24, 2007, on November 25, 2007.

A delay resulting from the lack of knowledge or improper application of the patent statute, rules of practice or the MPEP does not constitute an “unavoidable” delay. See Haines v. Quigg, 673 F. Supp. 314, 317, 5 USPQ2d 1130, 1132 (N.D. Ind. 1987), Vincent v. Mossinghoff, 230 USPQ 621, 624 (D.D.C. 1985); Smith v. Diamond, 209 USPQ 1091 (D.D.C. 1981); Potter v. Dann, 201 USPQ 574 (D.D.C. 1978); Ex parte Murray, 1891 Dec. Comm’r Pat. 130, 131 (1891).

The petition under 37 CFR 1.137(a) is dismissed.

The undersigned suggests that petitioners file a petition stating that the delay was unintentional. Public Law 97-247, § 3, 96 Stat. 317 (1982), which revised patent and trademark fees, amended 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) to provide for the revival of an “unintentionally” abandoned application without a showing that the delay in prosecution or in late payment of the issue fee was “unavoidable.” This amendment to 35 U.S.C. § 41(a)(7) has been implemented in 37 CFR 1.137(b).

The filing of a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) cannot be intentionally delayed and therefore must be filed promptly. A person seeking revival due to unintentional delay cannot make a statement that the delay was unintentional unless the entire delay, including the date it was discovered that the application was abandoned until the filing of the petition to revive under 37 CFR 1.137(b), was unintentional. A statement that the delay was unintentional is not appropriate if petitioners intentionally delayed the filing of a petition for revival under 37 CFR 1.137(b).

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

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                                    Commissioner for Patents  
                                    P. O. Box 1450  
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                                    401 Dulany Street  
                                    Alexandria, VA 22314

By facsimile:              **(571) 273-8300**  
                                    Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries concerning this decision should be directed to the undersigned at (571) 272-3230.



Shirene Willis Brantley  
Senior Petitions Attorney  
Office of Petitions